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Message Text

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21
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 /072 W
---------- 032175
R 281515Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1308

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

NESCO

REF: STATE 329411, PARIS 27844

1. BASED ON DIRECT OBSERVATION AND RELIABLE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOURCES, MAZAR'S EXCAVATIONS CONTINUE, MAIN DIGGING SEASON NOW OVER BUT AMBASSADOR COLLEGE GROUP ALONG WITH OTHERS PARTICIPATED IN EXCAVATIONS DURING SUMMER IN AREA BETWEEN SINGLE AND TRIPLE GATES AT HA-OFEL ROAD. REDUCED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY CURRENTLY GOING ON.

2. IT UNCLEAR TO CONGEN WHETHER UNESCO CONCERED MAINLY OVER MAZAR'S EXCAVATIONS IN VICINITY TEMPLE MOUNT (HARAM-ESH-SHARIF) OR OVER TOTALITY OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN EAST JERUSALEM. IN ADDITION TO MAZAR'S DIGS ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING MAIN EXCAVATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS:

(A) TUNNELING BY RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY
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FROM WILSON'S ARCH NORTHWEST ALONG WESTERN WALL.
(DETAIL MIN NEWLIN TKTTER OF 4/5/7/:

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39B) MEXAR'S EXCAVATIONS OUTSIDE OF CITY WALL
SOUTHWEST OF DING GATE.

(C) PROF. AVIGAD'S EXTENSIVE EXCAVATIONS IN
JEWISH QUARTER OF THE OLD CITY.
(IN ADDITION TO EXCAVATIONS, THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE
RECONSTRUCTION IN THIS QUARER).

(D) EXCAVATIONS AT BASE OF CITY WALL IMMEDIATELY
SOUTH OF THE CITADEL.

(E) EXCAVATIONS AT BASE OF CITY WALL EAST NORTHEAST
OF HEROD'S GATE.

(F) EXCAVATIONS BY RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES OF KIDRON
VALLEY ROAD AND VICINITY WHERE IT DESCENDS FROM
JERICHO ROAD (NEAR GETHSEMANE) TOWARD ABSALOM'S TOMB.

3. PRESS HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT ZACHARIAS' TUNNEL
FROM GIHON SPRING TO SILOM POOL HAS BEEN REFURBISHED
AND WILL SOON BE REOPENED TO PUBLIC.

4. COMMENT: VISIT BY LEMAIRE WOULD, AT MINIMUM,
RESULT IN REPORT THAT MAZAR'S WORK CONTINUING AND,
DEPENDING ON SCOPE OF LEMAIRE'S MANDATE, COULD
INCLUDE MUCH MORE.
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